5,558,597, by Edwards *et al.* each of which is incorporated herein by reference.--

On page 12, line 29, after the description of Figure 12, please add the following paragraphs:

--FIG. 13 is a planar view of a stylet ablation device of this invention.

FIG. 14 is fragmentary cross-sectional view of the tip of the stylet of FIG. 1 with the electrode extended from the tip.

FIG. 15 is a schematic view showing use of an embodiment with a shape memory electrode preformed into a curved shape to ablate a tissue mass.--

On page 28, line 10, please add the following paragraphs:

--Referring to the drawings, FIG. 13 is a planar view of a stylet ablation device of this invention. The device comprises a handle portion 112 and a delivery tube portion 114. Stylet sleeve control manual tab 116 and stylet electrode control manual tab 118 are mounted for sliding engagement in slots and in the handle top plate. Index markings 121 indicate the relative angle of orientation of the stylet with respect to the stylet angle indicator 123.

FIG. 14 is a cross-sectional view of the tip of the stylet ablation device, such as that shown in FIG. 13, with the electrode and sleeve extended. This embodiment shows a flexible stylet 150 having a predetermined curved configuration. The flexible stylet can also be straight, if the remote position can be reached by a straight path from the point of entry without damaging a vital body component. The electrode can be made of a shape memory alloy, shaped to revert to a desired configuration when released from the

tubing. The configuration can be simple curves, a combination of straight portions and curves, curves with differing radii, in two or three dimensions, selected to direct the electrode and its surrounding flexible, highly conformable sleeve in a preselected two or three dimensional path through tissue to a site to be ablated.

A method of this invention for medical ablation of difficult to access tissues comprises inserting a hollow needle through a tissue layer. The needle encloses a conductive electrode of highly flexible memory metal having a predetermined curved memory configuration and a sharpened distal terminus. The electrode tube is enclosed within an insulating sleeve axially moveable thereon and bendable therewith. The electrode and sleeve are advanced from the terminal end of the hollow needle, whereby the portion of the electrode and sleeve advanced beyond the end of the needle adopt the predetermined curved memory configuration and the electrode and sleeve follow a correspondingly predetermined curved path through tissue to the site to be ablated. Then a portion of the sleeve is withdrawn from the terminus of the electrode to expose a predetermined electrode area for ablation. Finally, RF energy is applied to the tissue surround the exposed electrode area to effect ablation thereof.

Referring to FIG. 15, use of an embodiment with a shape memory electrode preformed into a curved shape to ablate a near zero access area behind an obstruction in the body. The objective of the treatment is to reduce the size of a mass 154 behind a rigid obstacle, such as bone 156 (or area to be protected from penetration). The electrical conductor and sleeve is extended from the needle 140 through surrounding tissue around the obstacle to its back surface, and the target tissue to be reduced. The sleeve

32

B